(b) if so, whether it was in 1994 Meet of the Global Tiger Forum that China, Indonesia and Thailand pleaded for the concept to be considered by Tiger range countries;

(c) the main reasons for not implementing the decision for the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for tiger farming by South Asian Nations under consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(b) No, Sir. No proposal for farming of tiger was pleaded by Indonesia and Thailand in the 1994 Meet of the Global Tiger Forum. Further, no delegate from China had participated in it.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Production of Fodder**

3305. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of production of fodder and requirement thereof in the country;

(b) the steps taken to improve the quality (nutritive value) and productivity of fodder during the last three years and results achieved hereby particularly in Western States, State-wise;

(c) the details of Research and Development extension programme formulated to meet the growing fodder requirement of animals in milk producing States; and

(d) the details of action plan for fodder development and financial assistance likely to be made available under the Central schemes during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) As per estimates made in 1993 by Policy Advisory Group of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the availability of dry and green fodder was 398.68 and 573.50 million tonnes respectively against the requirement of 583.62 and 744.73 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The Central Government disbursed Rs. 12.06 crores in the last three years to different States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "assistance to States for feed and fodder development" which has components for improving the nutritive value of fodder. The States of Maharashtra and Gujarat were given Rs. 21.52 lakhs and Rs. 62.98 lakhs respectively during the period.

(c) The All India coordinated project on forage crops has developed several new high yielding fodder varieties which are not being grown by farmers. Some of the new varieties are Anand-2, Anand-3 and LL-5 (Lucern), BL 1, BL 10 (Berseem), AS 16 (Sorghum), J-1006 (Maize), TL-1 (teosinte) and PGG-19 (Guinea grass).

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of assistance to States an outlay of Rs. 5 crores has been made for 1997-98.

*[Translation]*

**Sugar in International Market**

3306. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar has been out of competition in the international market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the production of sugar in Uttar Pradesh and the percentage of sugar out of it sent to international markets;

(d) whether the price of sugar has been increased due to imposing of cess unit;

(e) if so, the estimated percentage of raw material and taxes/cess in the production cost of sugar; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to bring down the prices of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The export of sugar is being undertaken by various private exporters as per their own best commercial judgement. It is not possible to quantify the increase or decrease in sugar exports, as a host a factors, including international sugar prices and demand determine export decision.

(c) During 1996-97 season, the production of sugar in U.P. was about 40.50 lakh tonnes (Provisional) upto 7.7.97.

A total quantity of about 1.35 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been released for export out of 1996-97 season's production from the sugar mills in the State of U.P. upto 31.7.97.

(d) Due to sugar cess imposed on sugar, the price of domestic sugar increases by that extent, which is presently Rs. 14 per quintal.

(e) Cane cost constitutes around 60% of the All-India Average Ex-factory Price of Levy Sugar for the season 1996-97. The taxes are (i) Central Excise duty on levy sugar, Rs. 38 per quintal, on levy-free sugar, Rs. 71 per quintal, and (ii) Sugar cess Rs. 14 per quintal.

(f) The Release Mechanism is regulated in a judicious manner in order to maintain the price of sugar in open market at a reasonable level to the consumer and also to ensure a reasonable return to the producers to enable them to pay remunerative cane price to the growers.

**Public and Private Sector Investment in Agriculture Sector**

3307. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public and Private Sectors investment in agriculture sector has been kept low during this year in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the States whose condition has become worse due to low investment in the agriculture sector;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to increase the investment in agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As per the latest available information, the total investment or gross capital formation in agriculture sector at 1980-81 prices during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:—

*Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture (at 1980-81 prices)*

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Public | Private | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 1329 | 4349 | 5678 |
| 1995-96 | 1310 | 4991 | 6301 |
| %age change in 1995-96 over 1994-95 | (–)1.4 | (+)14.8 | (+)11.0 |

The above table shows that the total as well as private investment in agriculture has increased. However, there has been a marginal decline in the public investment due to diversion of resources from investment to current expenditure.

(c) The State-wise details are not available. However, the gross capital formation in agriculture in the country has generally been showing a rising trend during the 90s.

(d) and (e) During 8th Plan Period (1992-97) significant level of investment has been made in favour of agriculture and allied activities like horticulture fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation and post harvest management for which specific schemes are being implemented. In order to further encourage investment for infrastructure in agriculture, a new Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been established to provide credit for medium and minor irrigation and solid conservation projects. A provision has been made to increase share capital of NABARD from Rs. 500 crore in 1996-97 to Rs. 2000 crore in next five years. Under another new scheme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) initiated during 1996-97, a provision of Rs. 1300 crore (BE) has been kept during 1997-98 for providing assistance to States by way of loan for timely completion of selected large and multiple purpose irrigation projects.

*[English]*

**Decline in Farm Lands Due to Excessive Use of Pesticides**

3308. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm lands are getting degraded due to the excessive use of pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that exported farm goods worth Rs. 1000 crores have been rejected by the Western countries due to the presence of pesticides;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.